

REMARKS

Claim 1, as currently positioned, calls for obtaining a list of “known” contacts on a wireless device. The known contacts include a first contact in-range from the device and a second contact being out-of-range from the device. Thus, both the first and second contacts are known contacts to the wireless device. As a result, the wireless device is only contacting in-range and out-of-range contacts that are already known to it.

This has several advantages. One potential advantage, in some embodiments, is that the contact list of known contacts restricts communications to those individuals and their devices with whom the wireless device has a previous relationship. Thus, the infinite network of potential contacts is managed down to a subset of those known contacts. As a result, keeping track of network connectivity while devices are being physically moved and being turned on and off is dramatically reduced. Another potential advantage of some embodiments is that communications with persons who are unknown are not initiated. This may have several benefits including keeping children from contacting people they should not be in contact with.

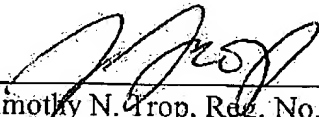
In Haartson, it is clear that contact is established with all nearby units. See column 13, lines 49-54. An inquiry procedure is used to locate all of the neighboring units. Thus, the connectivity must be established between those neighboring units. Unfortunately, those neighboring units are not known units to the wireless device.

As an analogy, it would be comparable to calling out in the street. Everyone within proximity can hear you. More than likely, you know few, if any, of those people. In contrast, with the claimed system, you would be able to communicate with those people in-range, whom you already have some relationship with, and, therefore, those persons are known to you. Their only relationship to you is not merely proximity, but one of previous relationship.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. On the same basis, reconsideration of the rejections of the other pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy N. Trop, Reg. No. 28,994
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100
Houston, TX 77024
713/468-8880 [Phone]
713/468-8883 [Fax]